

REMARKS

The claim objections have been corrected.

The examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 112 since the word "split" was introduced double including the "gap" element in the claims.

The claims have been amended to replace the word "split" with the word "gap".

The examiner rejected claims 3 and 4 as being obvious over Rocket in view of Bontrager.

Claim 4 has been amended to change the word "lines" to "planes" thus the splits have to be in the same plane which is a feature Bontrager does not have. Since the splits are not both on the parallel planes but do have a line in common (into the page on Fig. 6).

Since one of the elements in the references is not present claim 4 now appears to be allowable.

The examiner rejected claim 1 as being obvious over Bontrager in view of Two Brothers.

Claim 1 has been amended to have independent parallel planar gaps which are not coplanar in the split rings which is a feature not found in the prior art. Claim 1 has further been amended to have bores with parallel axes. The Two Brothers bores for the locking bolts are not on parallel axes. Therefore it is believed claim 1 is now allowable over the references.

The examiner rejected claim 2 as being obvious over Bontrager in view of Two Brothers and Rocket.

With claim 1 as amended now being allowable dependent claim 2 is believed to be allowable.

The examiner rejected claim 3 as being obvious over Bontrager in view of Two Brothers and Rocket.

Claim 3 has been amended to add the restriction of the handle only being on one side of the column of the handlebar.

Claim 3 has a handlebar which is described as having a column and a perpendicular horizontal hand grip portion extending only on one side of the column. This handle portion being only on one side distinguishes the claim from Rocket and is believed to make the claim allowable.

The examiner rejected claim 4 as being obvious over Bontrager in view of Two Brothers and Rocket.

As noted above claim 4 has been amended to show the splits are in parallel planes which is believed to make the claim 4 allowable.